Regional

Keeping Industry Away

opment of the city of Scranton and the mayor's office. I've had no discussion other than that.

TIMES: As a specific item relating to a general principle, how does Steamtown connected to Scranton itself, help somebody in, say, Archbald or Carbondale?

MELLOW: Well, I don't know, it certainly doesn't help. It wouldn't have the same effect that you may have if another RCA wanted to move into the area or if Haddon Craftsmen wanted to put on an additional thousand people or if the federal government came in and gave the Chamberlain plant a huge contract to build a shell where you would employ people.

But I think it has a very useful purpose by, once again, trying to change the entire idea, the stigma that's been attached to our people. It would provide for some cultural activity, for our own people, which I think is vitally needed. It could provide for a point of tourism where people who are traveling throughout the northeastern part of the United States may in fact have some interest in trains and locomotvies and know that Steamtown is located in Pennsylvania, in the city of Scranton, and they could possibly come here and spend a couple of days which would benefit our restaurants.

When we talk about the Midvalley, maybe there's a company up here that's making something that Steamtown can use. Printing businesses that may be located in the Midvalley that might, in some way, benefit from that. People who live here that may work for restaurants that would benefit from that. Plus the tax will increase because of property taxes. People will be here and they will be spending money. So I think there's a beneficial aspect.

I'd much prefer to see a huge manufacturer come in and employ a thousand people. But I think this is one of the steps, the many steps that I believe, in this regard. We're building a pyramid, and I think this is one of the foundations of that pyramid to try to accomplish, I think, what each and everyone of us would like to.

TIMES: Recently, in Carbondale, there has been talk about the present post office building being used once the new facility is built there. A group is to contact your office. What kind of assistance can you render?

MELLOW: I've discussed the proposal about the post office for several years because that's been on the drawing board for a number of years. And the possibility of that becoming the new city hall, once in fact that new post office is built, and I would totally support it. I believe the current post office that's up there, aesthetically, is an absolutely beautiful building. And I think that should be utilized to the benefit of what the people up there want.

I've been through the city hall as late as this past fall (to see) the preservation and historical significance of city hall. Work has got to be done to preserve that particular building, and I believe there's federal dollars that, if that building were not being used as a city hall, maybe even as a city hall, . . . that can be used to preserve what's a beautiful building. I have not heard directly yet from the people of Carbondale, but I'm sure I will in the very near future.

"We have spent a tremendous amount of money to try to stabalize the underground, to extinguish burning culm dumps, to evade acid mine water."